DC
Rip Hunter...
TIME MASTER
12¢
THE TRANSFER IS COMPLETE... RIP HUNTER'S MIND IS NOW IN THE CREATURE'S BRAIN!
WAS THIS THE ORIGIN OF... "The MISSING-LINK MONSTER"?

CHAPTER 1

Rip Hunter... TIME MASTER

UNEARTHED AFTER A MILLION-YEAR SLEEP, THE WEIRD BEAST TOUCHED OFF A SCIENTIFIC SEARCH THAT MIGHT ANSWER ONE OF MAN'S MOST PERPLEXING QUESTIONS! AND LEADING THIS SEARCH WAS RIP HUNTER, THE FAMED **TIME MASTER,** WHO COULD SPAN THE CENTURIES TO THE CREATURE'S ORIGIN! LITTLE DID RIP DREAM OF THE DOOM THAT AWAITED HIM AT THE HANDS OF...

THE MISSING-LINK MONSTER

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AT AN ARCHAEOLOGICAL EXCAVATION SITE, IN A REMOTE CORNER OF ASIA, MONTHS OF DIGGING AND BLASTING MOVE TOWARD A FATEFUL CLIMAX...

JUST GOT A MESSAGE FROM RIP HUNTER'S PLANE, SIR... HE RAN INTO A SLIGHT WEATHER DELAY!

HMPH!... IN THAT CASE, WE'LL HAVE TO CONTINUE WITHOUT HIM! I WANT TO FINISH BEFORE NIGHTFALL!

TAKE COVER, GENTLEMEN... HAWKINS, LET HER RIP!

CHECK, PROFESSOR!

DOWN GOES THE PLUNGER, SPARKING A CHAIN OF EXPLOSIONS AROUND THE MINED PERIMETER...

BOOM

WHOOM

BARROOM

AS THE BILLOWING CLOUDS OF DUST START TO SETTLE...

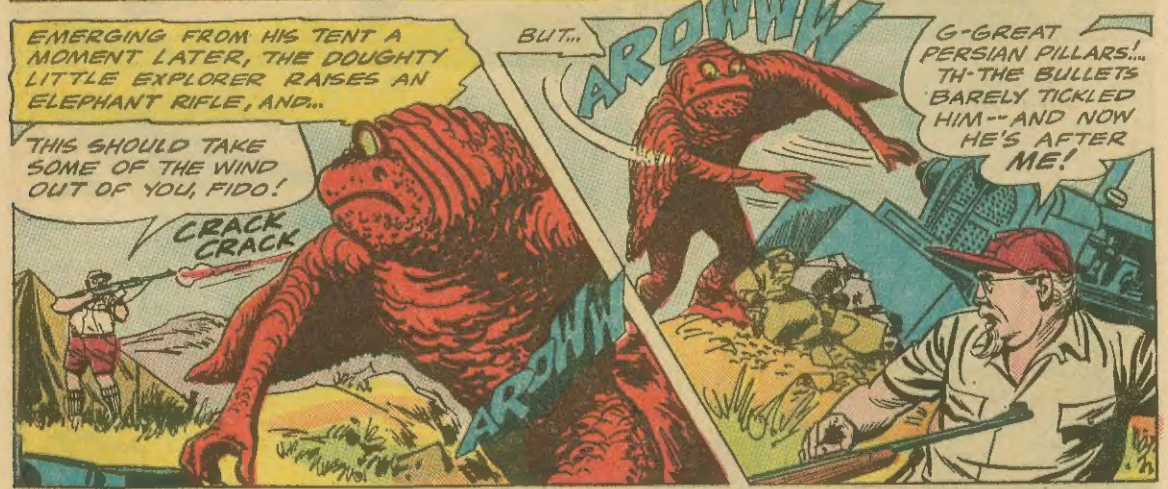
GREAT GRECIAN GRANITE! G-GENTLEMEN... DO YOU SEE WHAT I SEE?

-GULP! W-WE WERE ABOUT TO ASK THE SAME OF YOU, PROFESSOR!

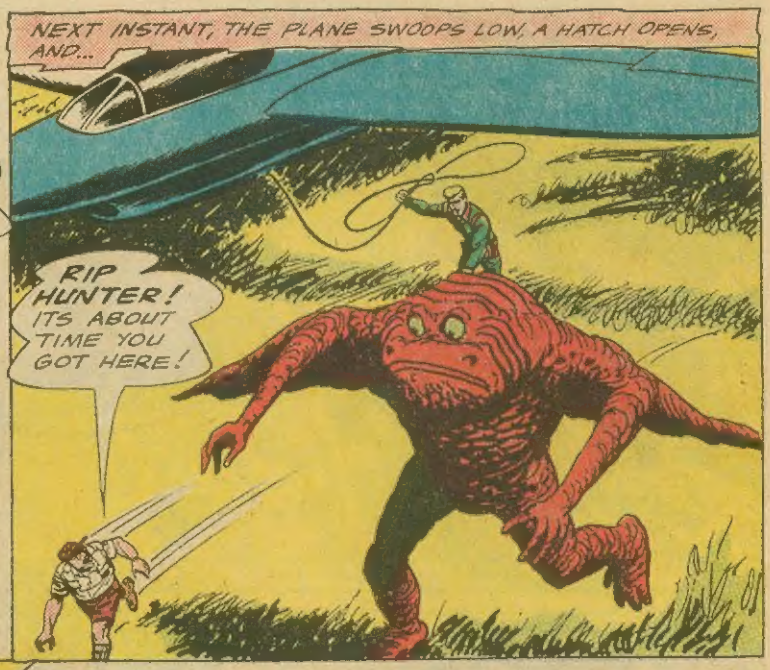
IT'S NEITHER FISH NOR FOWL, MAMMAL NOR REPTILE... WHAT DO YOU MAKE OF IT, PROFESSOR?

DON'T ASK ME... UNTIL TODAY, I'VE ONLY DUG UP SIMPLE FOSSILS -- LIKE CAVEMEN AND DINOSAURS!

SUDDENLY...
SNOR-R-R-T
GREAT ROMAN RUINS!... DID I SAY FOSSILS? THAT BIG FELLOW SEEMS VERY MUCH ALIVE!
AND VERY MUCH DISTURBED, PROFESSOR!
INDEED, AS THE AWAKENED CREATURE SENSES THE HUMANS' PRESENCE...
TAKE COVER, MY FRIENDS! I WILL PROTECT YOU!
AROWWW

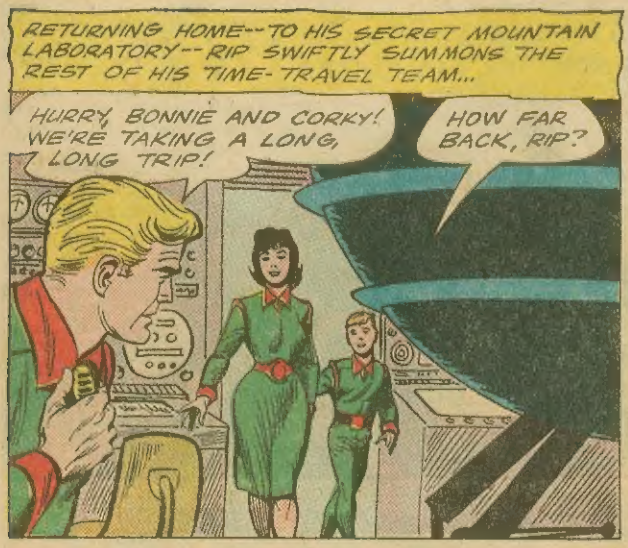

EMERGING FROM HIS TENT A MOMENT LATER, THE DOUGHTY LITTLE EXPLORER RAISES AN ELEPHANT RIFLE, AND...
THIS SHOULD TAKE SOME OF THE WIND OUT OF YOU, FIDO!
CRACK CRACK
BUT...
AROWWW
AROWW
G-GREAT PERSIAN PILLARS!... TH-THE BULLETS BARELY TICKLED HIM--AND NOW HE'S AFTER ME!

JUST THEN, WINGING OUT OF THE HORIZON...
RIP! WHAT IN BLAZES DID PROFESSOR GILES EXCAVATE THIS TIME?
WHATEVER IT IS, JEFF, THE PROFESSOR NEEDS SOME HELP.. AND FAST!



CONTINUED ON 2ND PAGE FOLLOWING.

AS THE LAST BIT OF CABLE LOOPS AROUND THE STARTLED BEAST...
NO MORE WINGS TO FLY WITH... AND DOWN WE GO!
BULLY, HUNTER! THAT KNOCKED IT COLDER THAN AN ICEBERG!
WHUMP
AFTERWARD, WHEN JEFF HAS LANDED AND JOINED THE OTHERS...
FISHLIKE GILLS-- BIRDLIKE WINGS-- MAMMAL-LIKE BODY... HUNTER, I THINK I'VE MADE THE GREATEST DISCOVERY OF ALL TIME!
STILL YOUR OLD MODEST SELF, EH, PROFESSOR? TELL ME MORE!
LEADING RIP TO HIS TENT, THE PROFESSOR REVEALS HIS STARTLING THEORY...
RIP, MY BOY! WHAT WOULD YOU SAY IF I TOLD YOU THAT CREATURE WAS THE MISSING LINK-- THE LIFE-FORM FROM WHICH MAN AND APE EVOLVED?
PROFESSOR GILES! HOW CAN YOU MAKE SUCH A WILD CLAIM?
APE
MAN
MAMMALS
BIRDS
REPTILES
AMPHIBIANS
LOOK HERE, HUNTER-- AT THIS EVOLUTIONARY TREE! IT SHOWS NO COMMON ANCESTOR FOR MAN OR APE-- NO CREATURE COMBINING ALL THE QUALITIES OF THOSE PRECEDING IT! BUT THIS CREATURE MAY!
A GOOD THEORY, PROFESSOR, BUT HOW DO YOU INTEND PROVING IT?
HA, HA! THAT'S WHERE YOU COME IN, LAD!... YOU AND YOUR FAMOUS TIME SPHERE! THINK OF IT-- THE FAME, THE GLORY...
ENOUGH, PROFESSOR, ENOUGH! YOU'VE TALKED ME INTO IT! I'LL TAKE OFF AT ONCE!
5



BEFORE LONG, THE AMAZING **TIME SPHERE** CLANGS SHUT, MOTORS HUM--AND ANOTHER TRIP ACROSS THE CENTURIES IS UNDERWAY...

SOON, OVER A VAST GEOLOGIC WASTELAND...

NOW CAN YOU TELL US WHERE WE'RE HEADING, RIP?

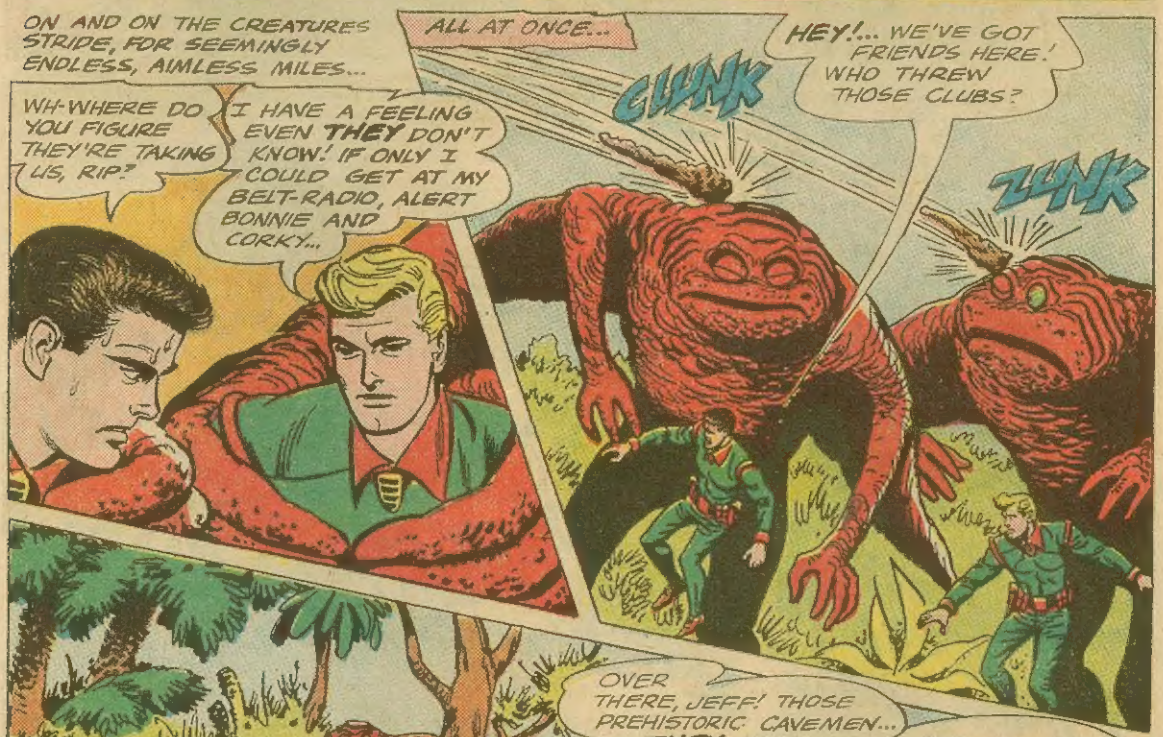
WAY BACK, CORKY--MORE THAN A MILLION YEARS, TO THE **DAWN OF MAN!**

THIS IS WHERE PROFESSOR GILES' EXCAVATION TOOK PLACE--AND WHERE THAT CREATURE SOMEHOW GOT BURIED, UNDER SUSPENDED ANIMATION!

AFTER LANDING IN BUSHY CAMOUFLAGE...

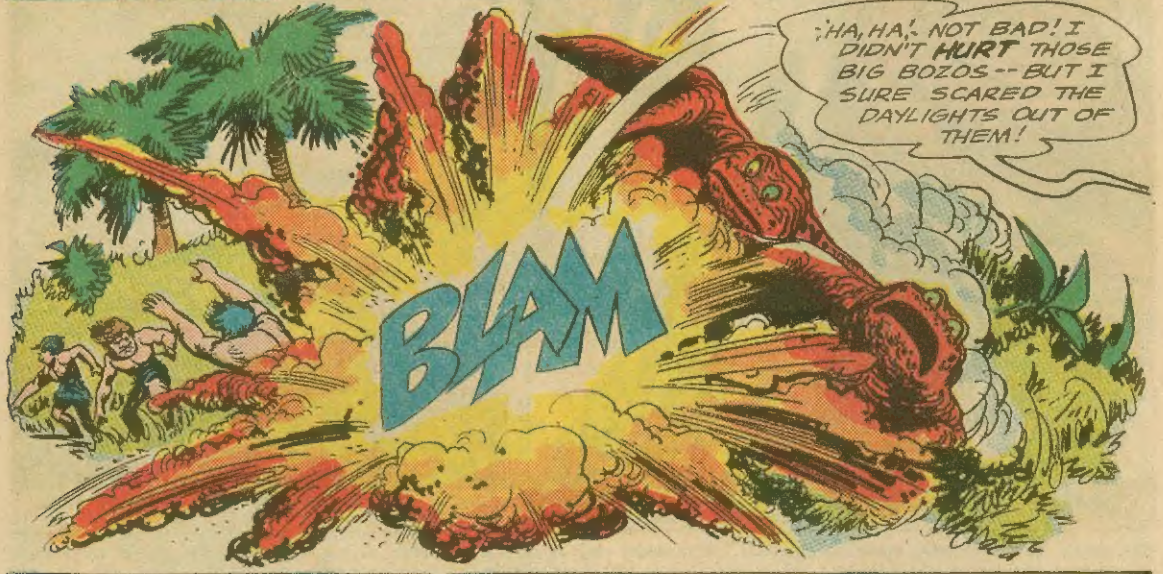
YOU TWO WAIT HERE, WHILE JEFF AND I DO SOME SCOUTING!

BUT NO SOONER DOES THE PAIR STEP INTO THE CLEARING THAN...
EEYOW! HOW'D THEY KNOW WE WERE HERE?
THE TIME SPHERE MUST'VE ATTRACTED THEM!
LET GO OF ME, YOU BIG BABOON! LET GO-- BEFORE I LOSE MY TEMPER!
FORGET IT, JEFF... YOU'LL ONLY WIND UP BREAKING YOUR KNUCKLES AGAINST HIS THICK HIDE!

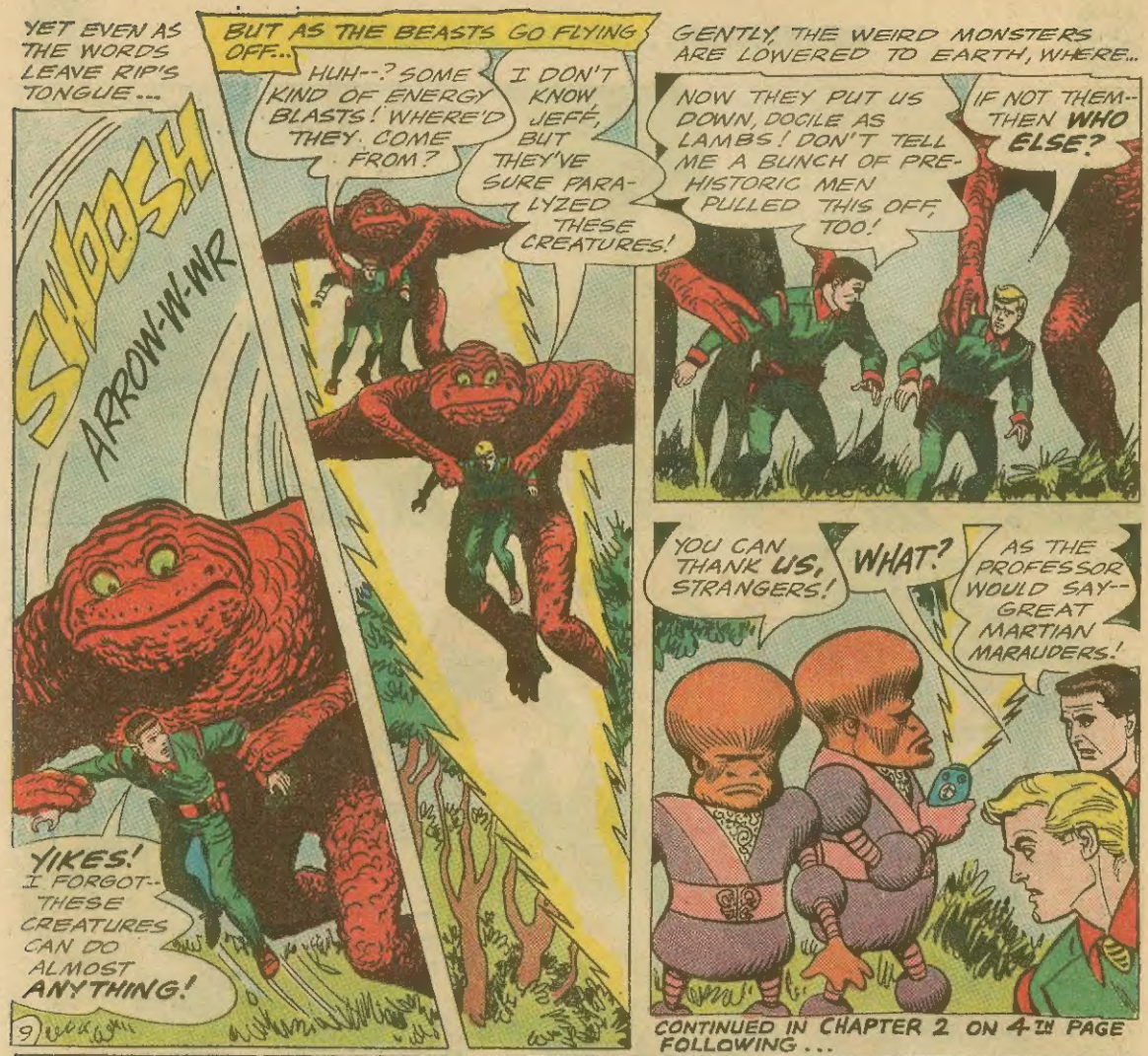

ON AND ON THE CREATURES STRIDE, FOR SEEMINGLY ENDLESS, AIMLESS MILES...
WH-WHERE DO YOU FIGURE THEY'RE TAKING US, RIP?
I HAVE A FEELING EVEN THEY DON'T KNOW! IF ONLY I COULD GET AT MY BELT-RADIO, ALERT BONNIE AND CORKY...
ALL AT ONCE...
CLUNK
HEY!... WE'VE GOT FRIENDS HERE! WHO THREW THOSE CLUBS?
ZUNK

OVER THERE, JEFF! THOSE PREHISTORIC CAVEMEN... THEY RESCUED US!
AND NOW THE CREATURES ARE TRYING TO CATCH THEM! CAN'T LET THAT HAPPEN TO OUR BUDDIES...

GRAB A GRENADE, JEFF... IT'S TIME TO TEST THE OLD PITCHING ARM!
I READ YOU LOUD AND CLEAR, COACH!
OOOPS! THINK I THREW IT A LITTLE TOO HARD!


HA, HA! NOT BAD! I DIDN'T HURT THOSE BIG BOZOS -- BUT I SURE SCARED THE DAYLIGHTS OUT OF THEM!
BLAM

YES -- AND YOU'VE ALSO GOT THEM CHASING US AGAIN!
OH, NO! MAKE TRACKS, BUDDY-BOY!
WHEW! I'D HATE TO THINK THOSE DUMB DODOS ARE ANCESTORS OF MINE!
THERE'S NO TIME TO WORRY ABOUT THAT! RIGHT NOW, WE'VE GOT TO REACH THE TIME SPHERE BEFORE THEY REACH US!



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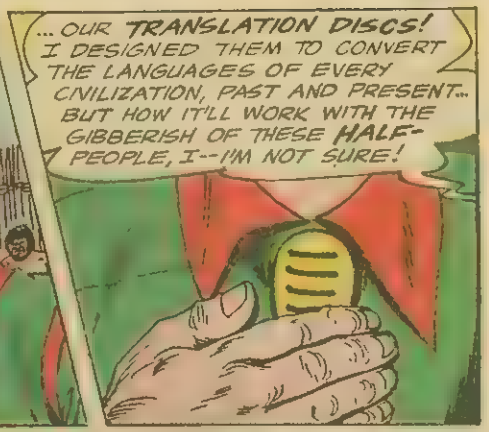
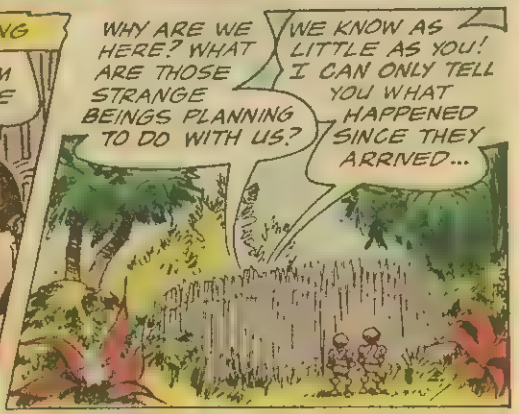
I certify that the statements made by me above are correct and complete. IRWIN DONENFELD, Business Manager.

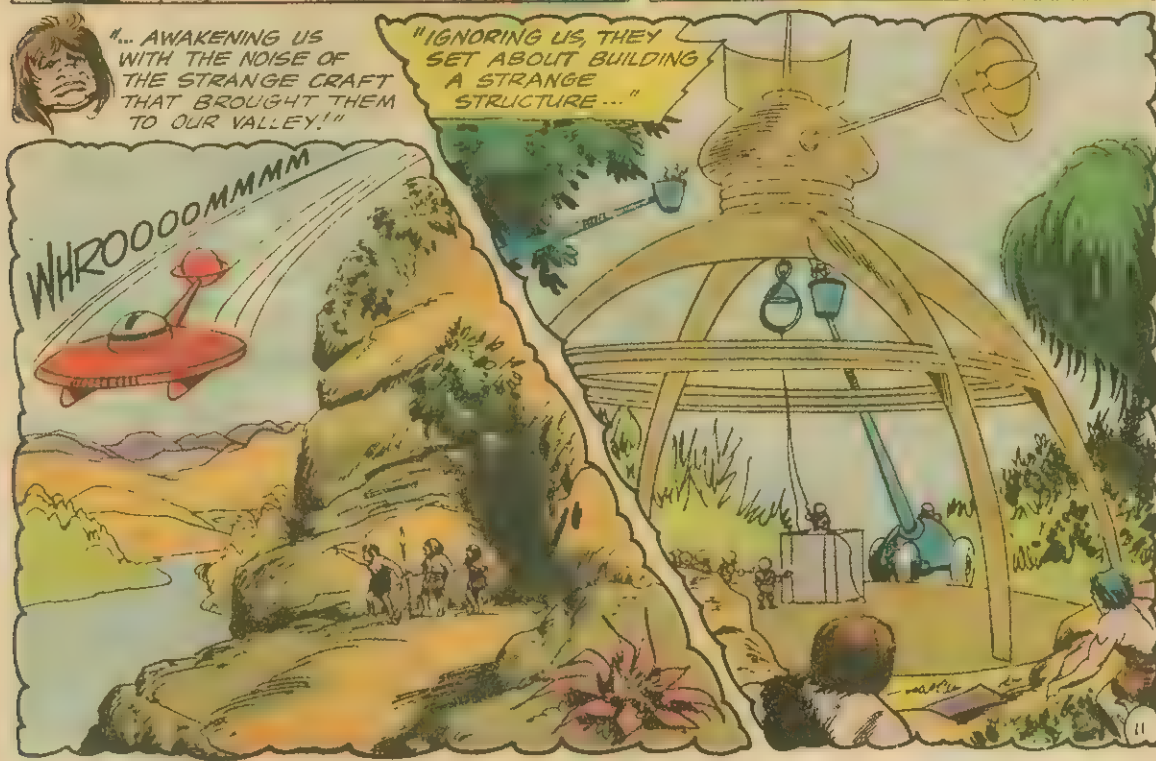
The MISSING-LINK MONSTER CHAPTER 2

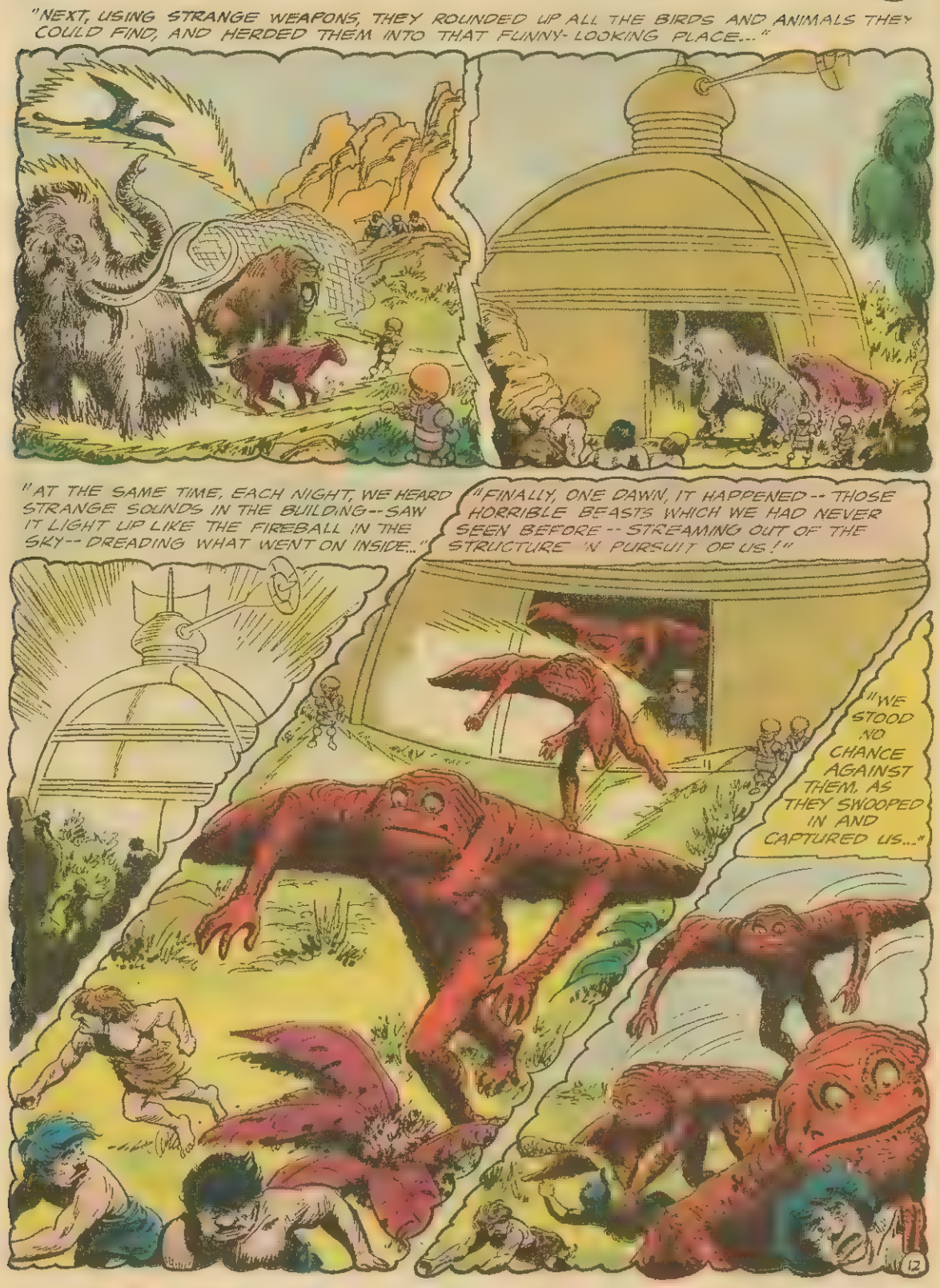
-GULP!- G-GOT ANY IDEAS, PAL, B-BEFORE THEY POUNCE ON US?
ONLY ONE CHANCE, JEFF...


...OUR TRANSLATION DISCS! I DESIGNED THEM TO CONVERT THE LANGUAGES OF EVERY CIVILIZATION, PAST AND PRESENT... BUT HOW IT'LL WORK WITH THE GIBBERISH OF THESE HALF-PEOPLE, I--I'M NOT SURE!

TENSELY THE TIME MASTER UTTERS A GREETING TO THE CONFUSED CAVEMEN, AND...
REST EASY, STRANGERS-- WE WOULD NOT HARM YOU! LIKE OURSELVES, YOU ARE PRISONERS OF THOSE EVIL ONES!
-WHEW,- I'M GLAD WE'VE GOT THAT STRAIGHT!


WHY ARE WE HERE? WHAT ARE THOSE STRANGE BEINGS PLANNING TO DO WITH US?
WE KNOW AS LITTLE AS YOU! I CAN ONLY TELL YOU WHAT HAPPENED SINCE THEY ARRIVED...


"... AWAKENING US WITH THE NOISE OF THE STRANGE CRAFT THAT BROUGHT THEM TO OUR VALLEY!"
"IGNORING US, THEY SET ABOUT BUILDING A STRANGE STRUCTURE..."
WHROOOOMMMM


"NEXT, USING STRANGE WEAPONS, THEY ROUNDED UP ALL THE BIRDS AND ANIMALS THEY COULD FIND, AND HERDED THEM INTO THAT FUNNY-LOOKING PLACE..."
"AT THE SAME TIME, EACH NIGHT, WE HEARD STRANGE SOUNDS IN THE BUILDING--SAW IT LIGHT UP LIKE THE FIREBALL IN THE SKY--DREADING WHAT WENT ON INSIDE..."
"FINALLY, ONE DAWN, IT HAPPENED--THOSE HORRIBLE BEASTS WHICH WE HAD NEVER SEEN BEFORE--STREAMING OUT OF THE STRUCTURE 'N PURSUIT OF US!"
"WE STOOD NO CHANCE AGAINST THEM, AS THEY SWOOPED IN AND CAPTURED US..."

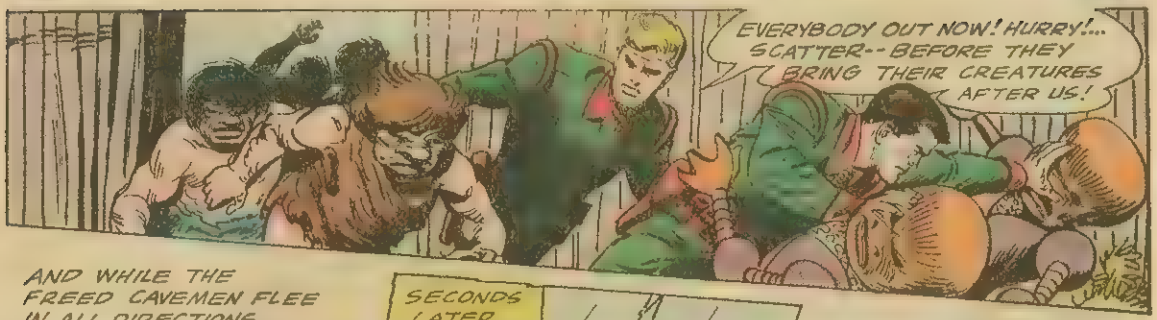
"LOCKED IN THIS PLACE. WE NOW WATCH HELPLESSLY AS THEY TAKE US AWAY, ONE BY ONE, NEVER TO BE SEEN OR HEARD FROM AGAIN..."
WHEN OUR FRIENDS TRY TO RESCUE US, THEY TOO ARE CAPTURED AND THROWN IN HERE! TH-THERE IS NO HOPE FOR US!
YES THERE IS--IF I CAN JUST REACH SOME OF MY FRIENDS!
INTO HIS BELT-RADIO, RIP HUNTER ISSUES AN URGENT CALL...
RIP TO TIME SPHERE... RIP TO TIME SPHERE... HOW DO YOU READ ME?
IN THE STILL SECLUDED SPHERE, AN INSTANT RESPONSE...
WE READ YOU FIVE-BY-FIVE! GOLLY, RIP, WHERE DID YOU TWO DIS-APPEAR TO?
NO TIME TO EXPLAIN, CORKY! WE'LL BE ALL RIGHT, IF YOU JUST FOLLOW THESE INSTRUCTIONS...
THAT NIGHT, OVER THE PRISON COMPOUND...
THERE'S THE PLACE, BONNIE.. YOU CAN JUST MAKE IT OUT THROUGH THE CLOUDS!
THANK GOODNESS! HURRY, CORKY.. RELEASE THE PARACHUTE!
SOME MOMENTS LATER, DOWN BELOW...
HERE COME THE TOOLS YOU ORDERED, RIP!
GOOD WORK, KIDS.. NOW-SCOOT, BEFORE SOMEONE SPOTS YOU!

QUIETLY BUT EFFICIENTLY, UNDER RIP'S DIRECTION, THE PRISONERS WORK THROUGH-OUT THE NIGHT...
YOU'RE ALL DOING FINE... YOU'VE REALLY MASTERED THESE TOOLS IN A HURRY!

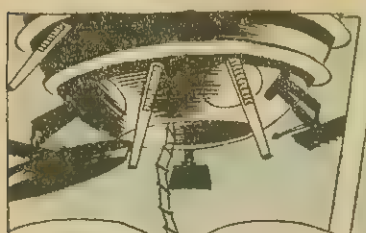
AT DAWN, A SIGNAL FROM THE TIME MASTER IS FOLLOWED BY...
THAT'S THE WAY-- HOOP IT UP... THE LOUDER, THE BETTER!
CLACK CLACK CLACK BOING
YIII! YIII! YU! YU! YU!

AS THE UNEXPECTED RACKET ATTRACTS ALIEN GUARDS...
YU! YU! YU! YU! CLACK CLACK
WHAT IS THE MEANING OF ALL THIS NOISE?
THEY'RE NEARING THE CENTER NOW, JEFF!
MY PLEASURE, BUDDY-BOY!

AS THE BURLY JEFF YANKS HARD ON THE CABLES...
AIEEEEEEEE

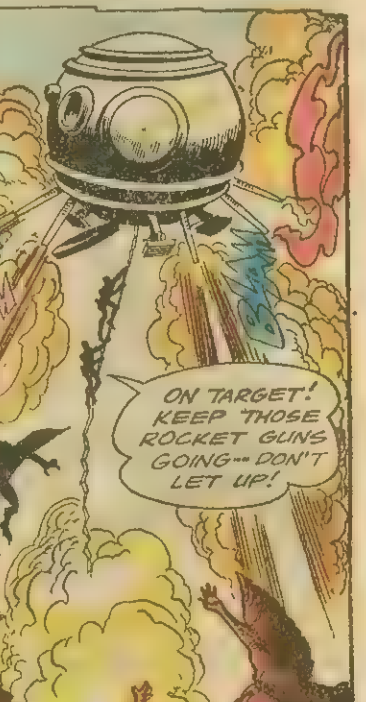


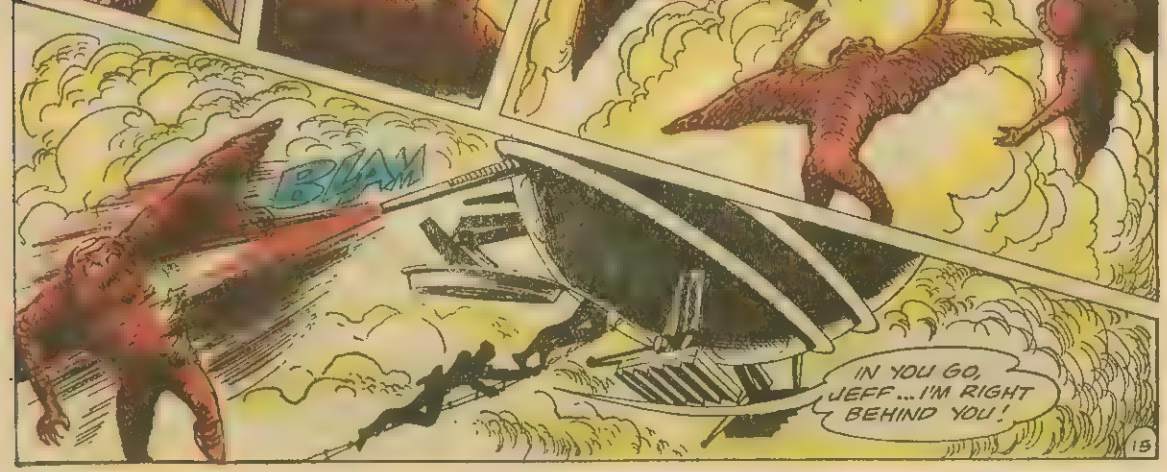
AND WHILE THE FREED CAVEMEN FLEE IN ALL DIRECTIONS...

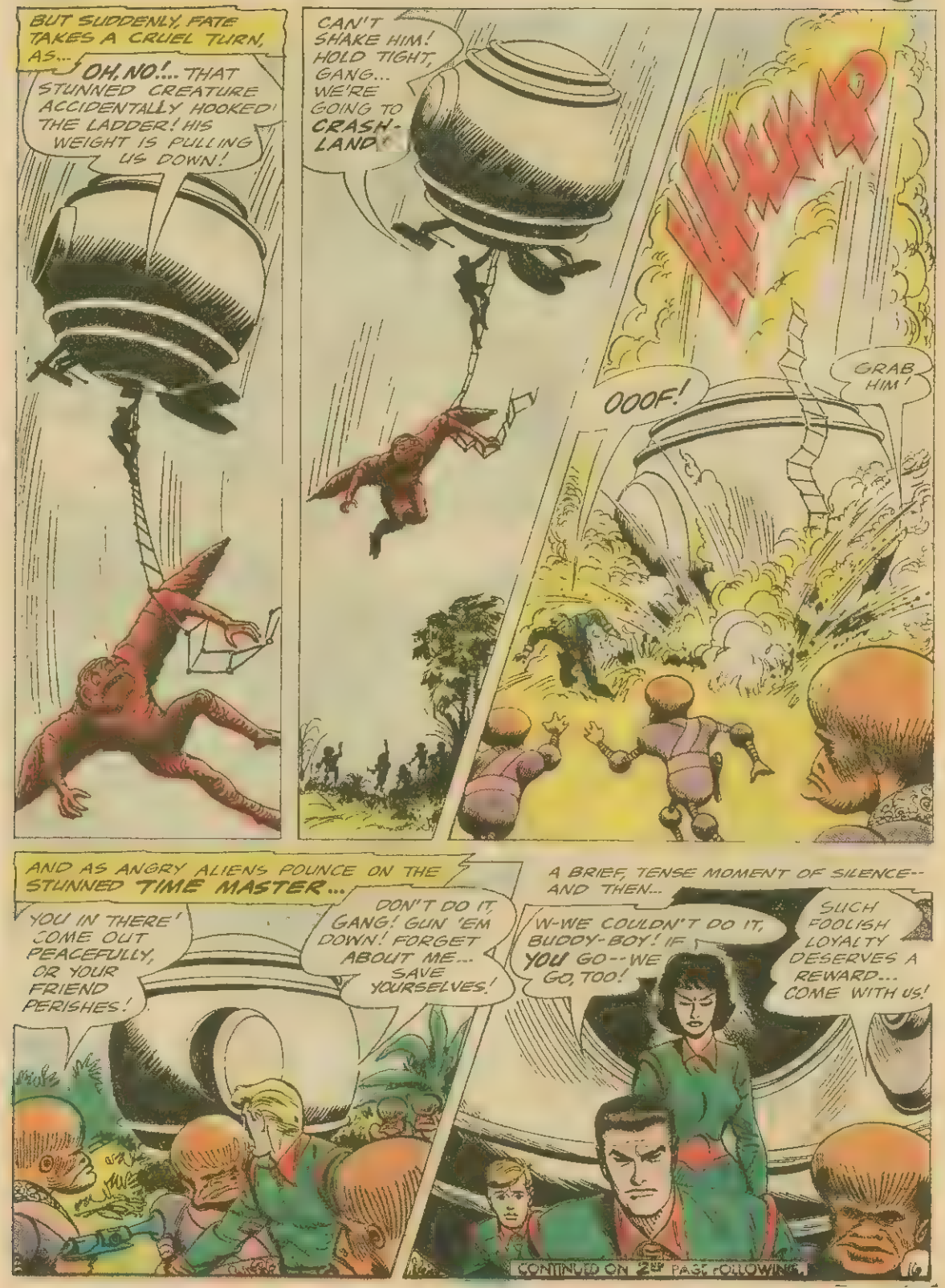


SECONDS LATER...

AS THE TIME SPHERE STARTS ASCENDING, PURSUED BY THE INCREDIBLE CREATURES...






BUT SUDDENLY, FATE TAKES A CRUEL TURN, AS...
OH, NO!... THAT STUNNED CREATURE ACCIDENTALLY HOOKED THE LADDER! HIS WEIGHT IS PULLING US DOWN!
CAN'T SHAKE HIM! HOLD TIGHT, GANG... WE'RE GOING TO CRASH-LAND!
WHAMP
OOOF!
GRAB HIM!
AND AS ANGRY ALIENS POUNCE ON THE STUNNED TIME MASTER...
YOU IN THERE! COME OUT PEACEFULLY, OR YOUR FRIEND PERISHES!
DON'T DO IT, GANG! GUN 'EM DOWN! FORGET ABOUT ME... SAVE YOURSELVES!
A BRIEF, TENSE MOMENT OF SILENCE-- AND THEN...
W-WE COULDN'T DO IT, BUDDY-BOY! IF YOU GO--WE GO, TOO!
SUCH FOOLISH LOYALTY DESERVES A REWARD... COME WITH US!
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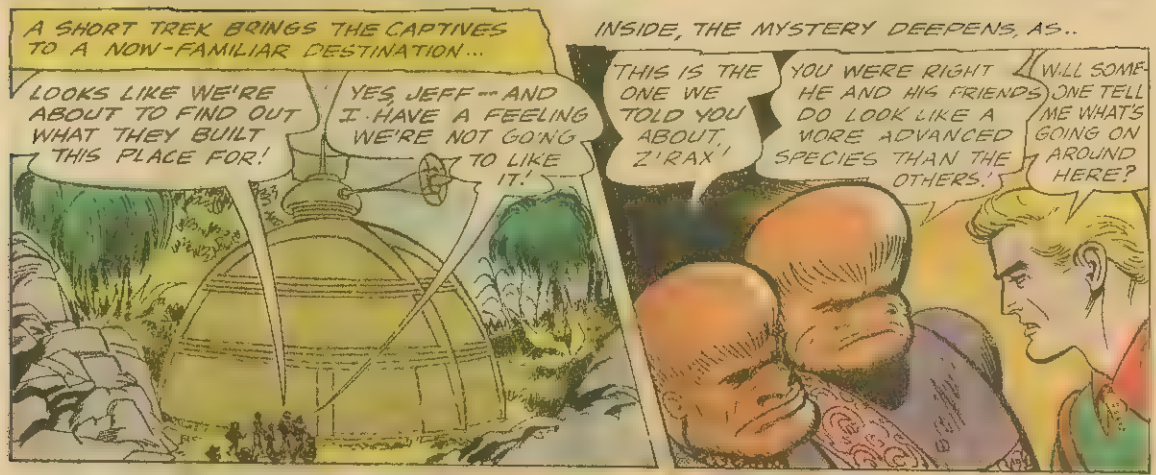
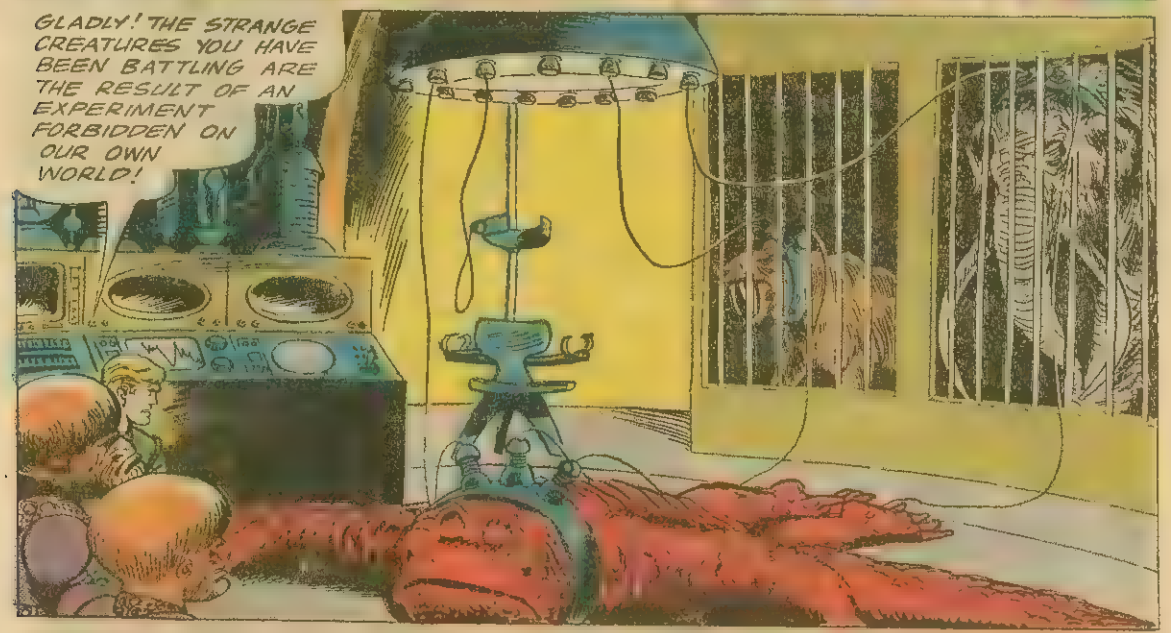
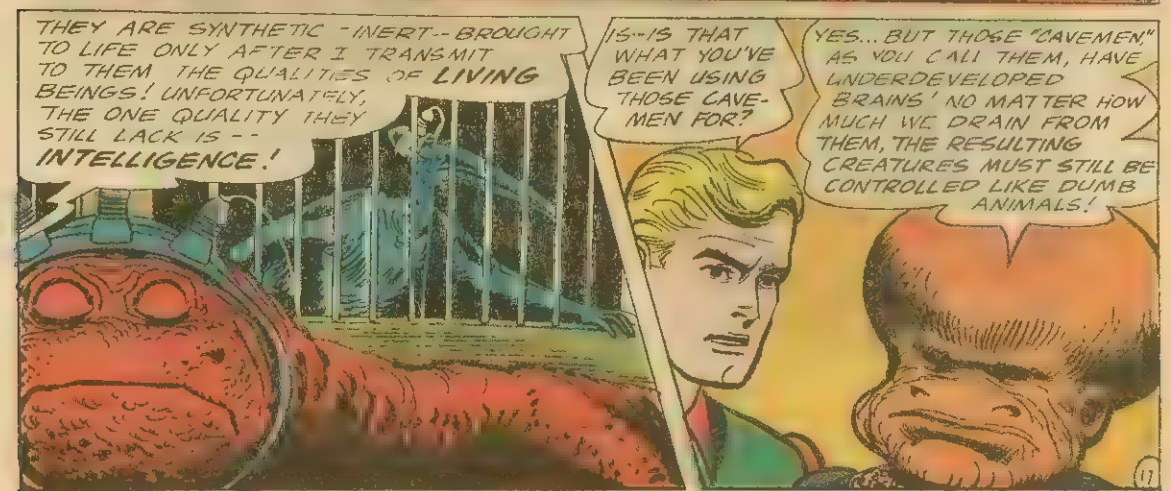

A SHORT TREK BRINGS THE CAPTIVES TO A NOW-FAMILIAR DESTINATION...
LOOKS LIKE WE'RE ABOUT TO FIND OUT WHAT THEY BUILT THIS PLACE FOR!
YES, JEFF -- AND I HAVE A FEELING WE'RE NOT GOING TO LIKE IT!

INSIDE, THE MYSTERY DEEPENS, AS..
THIS IS THE ONE WE TOLD YOU ABOUT, Z'RAX!
YOU WERE RIGHT HE AND HIS FRIENDS DO LOOK LIKE A MORE ADVANCED SPECIES THAN THE OTHERS!
WILL SOMEONE TELL ME WHAT'S GOING ON AROUND HERE?


GLADLY! THE STRANGE CREATURES YOU HAVE BEEN BATTLING ARE THE RESULT OF AN EXPERIMENT FORBIDDEN ON OUR OWN WORLD!


THEY ARE SYNTHETIC - INERT -- BROUGHT TO LIFE ONLY AFTER I TRANSMIT TO THEM THE QUALITIES OF LIVING BEINGS! UNFORTUNATELY, THE ONE QUALITY THEY STILL LACK IS -- INTELLIGENCE!
IS--IS THAT WHAT YOU'VE BEEN USING THOSE CAVEMEN FOR?
YES... BUT THOSE "CAVEMEN," AS YOU CALL THEM, HAVE UNDERDEVELOPED BRAINS! NO MATTER HOW MUCH WE DRAIN FROM THEM, THE RESULTING CREATURES MUST STILL BE CONTROLLED LIKE DUMB ANIMALS!

NOW, HOWEVER, I BELIEVE WE HAVE SOLVED THAT PROBLEM... SEIZE HIM!

NO! TH-THEY'RE GOING TO DRAIN RIP'S BRAIN!

PLEASE... DON'T HARM HIM! WE'LL LEAVE PEACEFULLY... WE'LL NEVER TROUBLE YOU AGAIN!

SAVE YOUR BREATH, BONNIE... THEY'RE WORSE MONSTERS THAN THE ONES THEY'RE CREATING!

NEXT MOMENT, AS A SWITCH IS THROWN, COURSING RAW ENERGY THROUGH MYRIAD WIRES AND ELECTRODES...

OH, JEFF... I-- I CAN'T LOOK!

;GULP! S-SO LONG, BUDDY-BOY...

SZZZZZZ

CRAK

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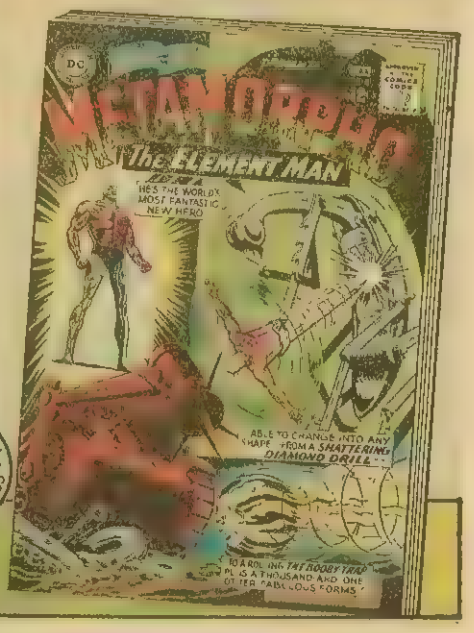
CONTINUED IN CHAPTER 3 ON THE FOLLOWING PAGE...

METAMORPHO
The ELEMENT MAN
...ABLE TO WILL THE
THE BRAVEST...
THE BOLDEST...
THE MOST BIZARRE
HERO OF ALL TIME!



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The MISSING-LINK MONSTER CHAPTER 3

HIS EYES GLAZED AND UNCOMPREHENDING, HIS BODY LIMP AS A RAGDOLL, THE ZOMBIE-LIKE FIGURE THAT ONCE WAS RIP HUNTER, THE **TIME MASTER**, NOW RESPONDS LIKE A PUPPY-DOG TO THE COMMANDS OF HIS CAPTORS...

SO MUCH FOR THIS PART OF THE EXPERIMENT... ON YOUR FEET, MINDLESS ONE!

RIP-- MY POOR DARLING... WHAT HAVE THEY DONE TO YOU?

BEGONE!... WE HAVE NO MORE NEED FOR YOU!

EEK!

CRASH

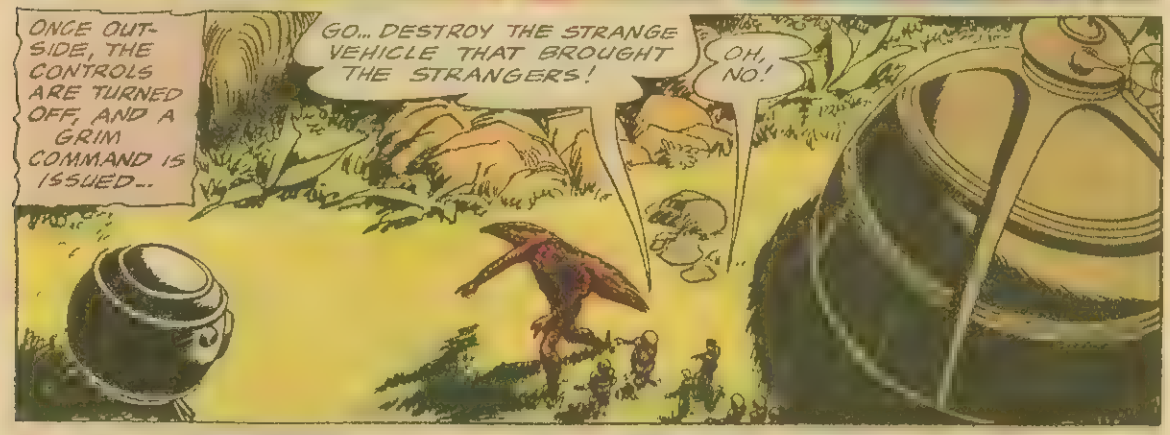
PLEASE... DON'T HURT HIM ANYMORE! I--I'LL TAKE HIM ;SOB; SOMEWHERE FAR OFF! I'LL KEEP HIM ;CHOKE; OUT OF YOUR WAY!

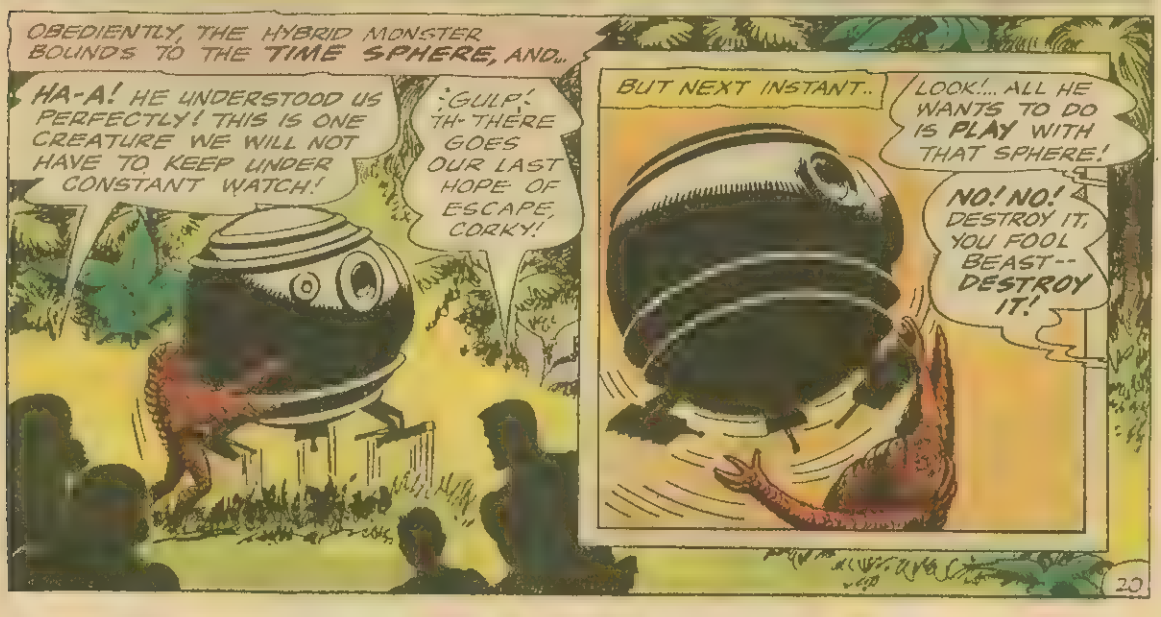
HOW TOUCHING! GO AHEAD.. HE WILL **NEED** YOU TO PROTECT HIM NOW!

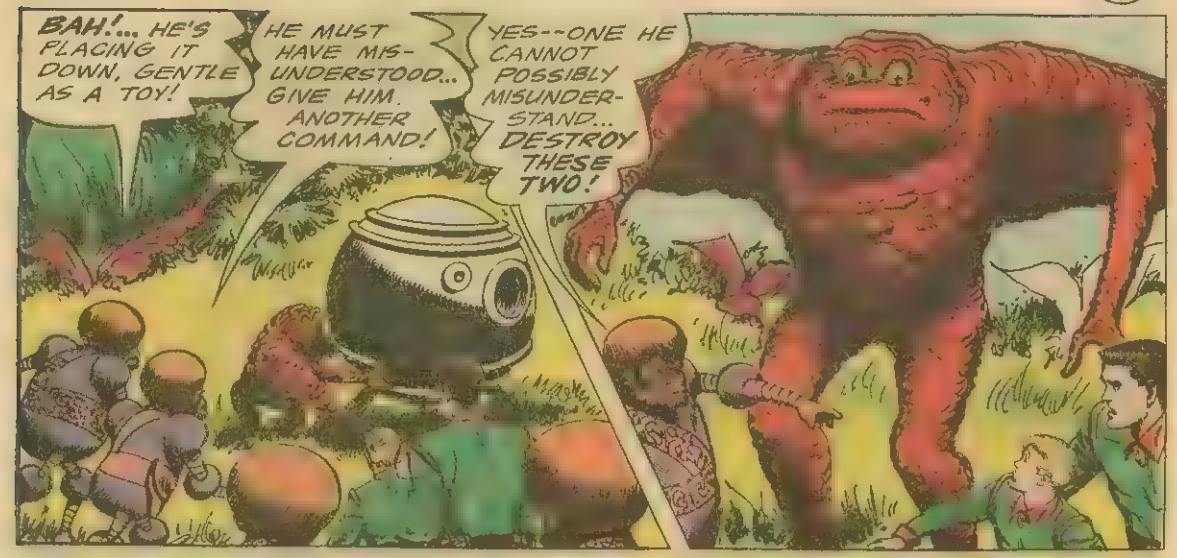
YOU BLASTED MONSTERS! I'LL --I'LL...

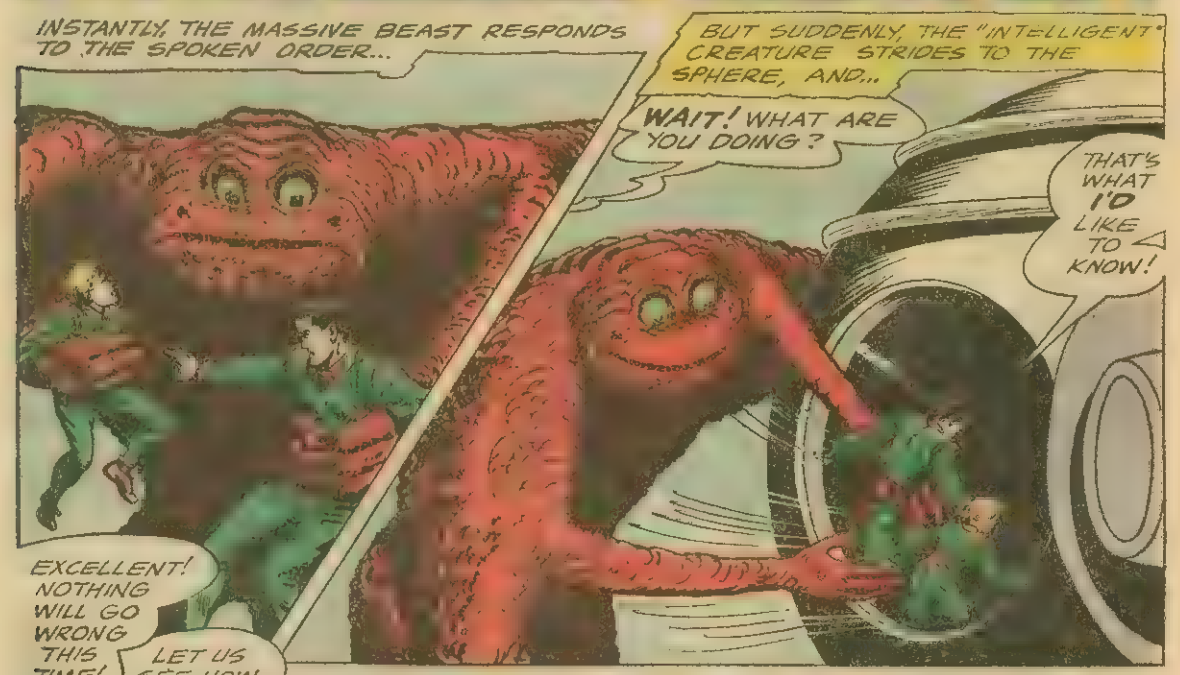
YOU WILL DO NOTHING! BE GRATEFUL THAT YOU ARE STILL ALIVE!

JUST THEN...
AH... OUR NEWEST "PET" HAS AWAKENED! NOW TO PUT HIM TO THE TEST...
SNORT
USE YOUR CONTROL TRANSMITTERS TO LEAD HIM OUT, LEST HE PROVES STUBBORN!

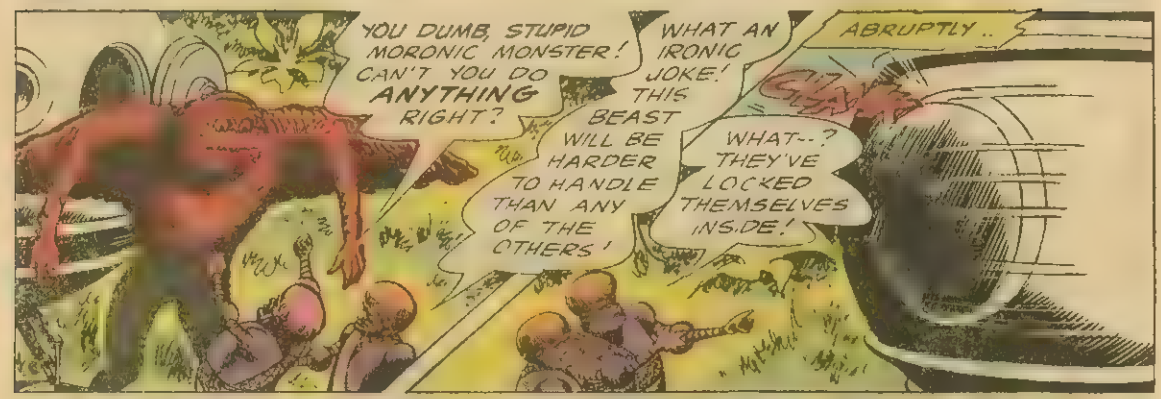

ONCE OUTSIDE, THE CONTROLS ARE TURNED OFF, AND A GRIM COMMAND IS ISSUED...
GO... DESTROY THE STRANGE VEHICLE THAT BROUGHT THE STRANGERS!
OH, NO!

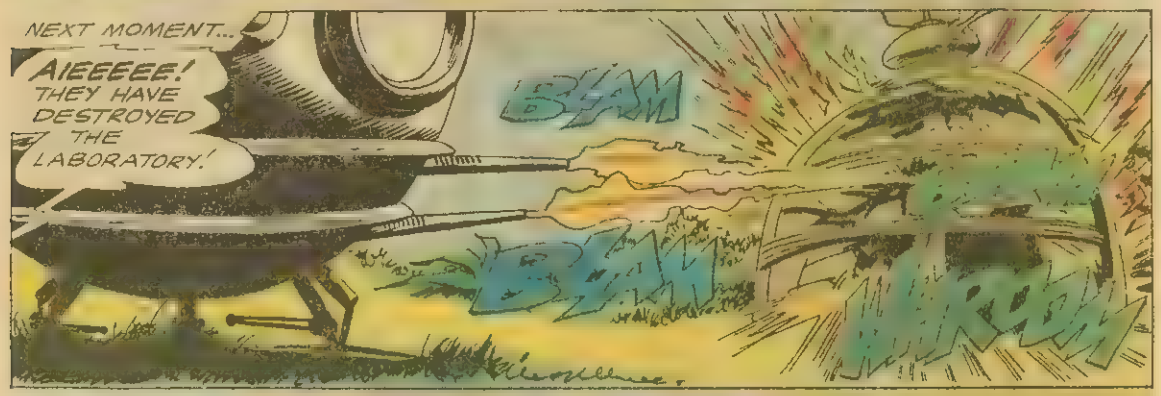

OBEDIENTLY, THE HYBRID MONSTER BOUNDS TO THE TIME SPHERE, AND...
HA-A! HE UNDERSTOOD US PERFECTLY! THIS IS ONE CREATURE WE WILL NOT HAVE TO KEEP UNDER CONSTANT WATCH!
GULP! TH-THERE GOES OUR LAST HOPE OF ESCAPE, CORKY!
BUT NEXT INSTANT..
LOOK!... ALL HE WANTS TO DO IS PLAY WITH THAT SPHERE!
NO! NO! DESTROY IT, YOU FOOL BEAST-- DESTROY IT!

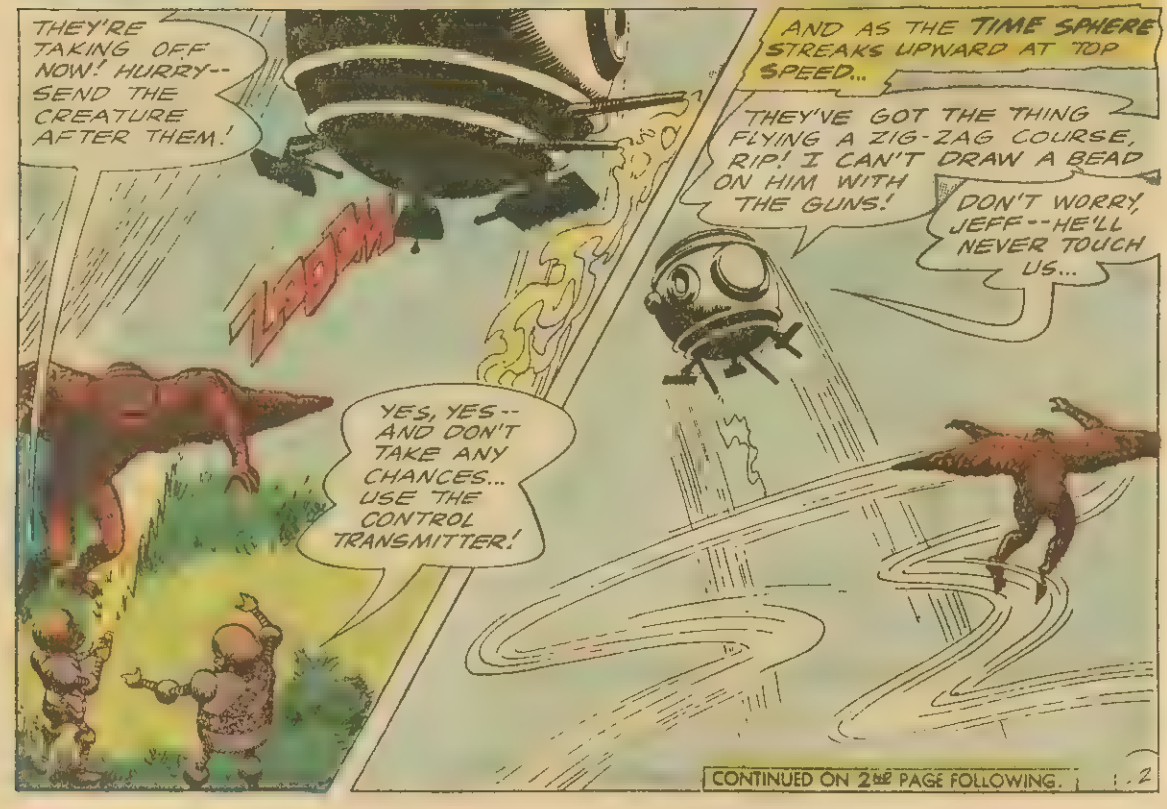

BAH!... HE'S PLACING IT DOWN, GENTLE AS A TOY!
HE MUST HAVE MIS-UNDERSTOOD... GIVE HIM ANOTHER COMMAND!
YES--ONE HE CANNOT POSSIBLY MISUNDER-STAND... DESTROY THESE TWO!


INSTANTLY, THE MASSIVE BEAST RESPONDS TO THE SPOKEN ORDER...
BUT SUDDENLY, THE "INTELLIGENT" CREATURE STRIDES TO THE SPHERE, AND...
WAIT! WHAT ARE YOU DOING?
THAT'S WHAT I'D LIKE TO KNOW!

EXCELLENT! NOTHING WILL GO WRONG THIS TIME!
LET US SEE HOW WELL HE PERFORMS THE TASK WITHOUT OUR HELP!
INSIDE, JEFF AND CORKY SEE THE STARTLING ANSWER...
RIP! BONNIE! I DON'T GET IT!
SHH! YOU'LL "GET IT" SOON ENOUGH, CORKY!

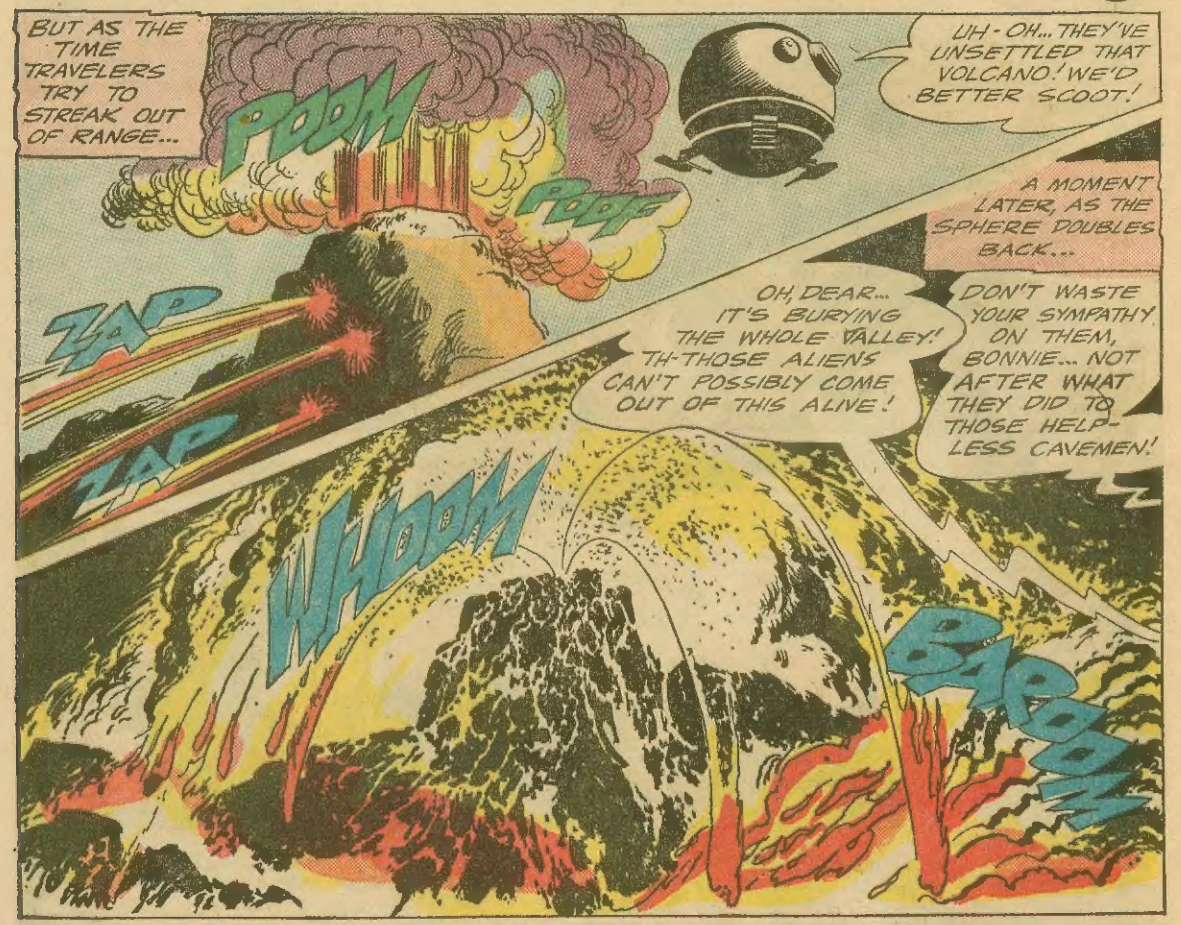




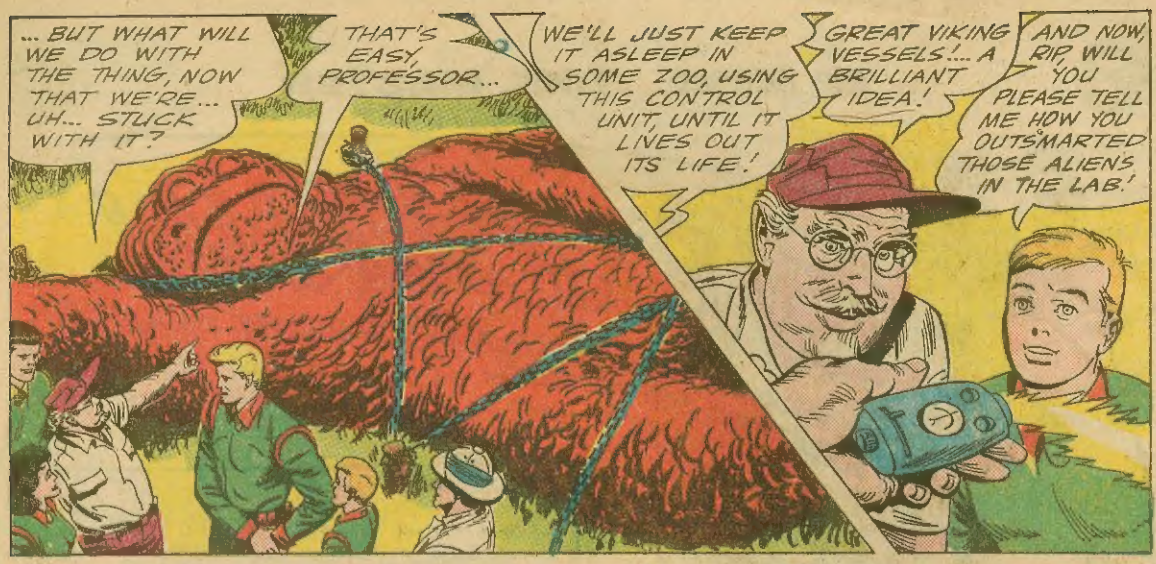


CONTINUED ON 2nd PAGE FOLLOWING.

SURE ENOUGH, WITHIN A FEW FEET OF THE AWESOME ORB...
YIPPEE! YOU WERE RIGHT, RIP! YOU'RE CONTROLLING HIM BETTER THAN THOSE ALIENS!
INDEED, BEFORE THE EVIL INVADERS CAN COUNTER THE STRATEGY...
WHUMP
LOOK OUT!
YIIIII!
LOOKS LIKE THE CREATURE IS OUT COLD, GANG!
YOU SEE, CORKY, WHEN THEY SLAMMED ME AGAINST THE TABLE, BACK IN THE LAB, I SNATCHED ONE OF THOSE CREATURE CONTROL UNITS!
BUT RIP... HOW COME YOUR BRAIN WASN'T AFFECTED BY THAT MIND-TRANSFER GADGET?
BEFORE THE TIME MASTER CAN REPLY...
ZAP
ZAP
ZAP
WATCH OUT! THEY'RE GOING AFTER US WITH GUNS NOW!
SET THE SPHERE FOR TIME TRAVEL, JEFF, WHILE I TRY TO DODGE THOSE BOLTS!


BUT AS THE TIME TRAVELERS TRY TO STREAK OUT OF RANGE...
POOM
POOF
ZAP
ZAP
UH-OH... THEY'VE UNSETTLED THAT VOLCANO! WE'D BETTER SCOOT!
A MOMENT LATER, AS THE SPHERE DOUBLES BACK...
OH, DEAR... IT'S BURYING THE WHOLE VALLEY! TH-THOSE ALIENS CAN'T POSSIBLY COME OUT OF THIS ALIVE!
DON'T WASTE YOUR SYMPATHY ON THEM, BONNIE... NOT AFTER WHAT THEY DID TO THOSE HELPLESS CAVEMEN!
WHOOM
BARROOM

YET ONE HAPPY SIGHT GREETS THE FOURSOME, AS THEY START THEIR RETURN TO THE PRESENT...
THE CAVEMEN, RIP-- WAVING GOODBYE! THANK GOODNESS THEY SURVIVED THE ERUPTION!
THEY'VE GOT A LOT TO THANK YOU FOR, BUDDY-BOY!
AND SO, PRESENTLY, BACK AT THE ARCHAEOLOGICAL SITE...
...THAT'S THE WHOLE STORY, PROFESSOR! YOUR CREATURE IS NO MISSING-LINK... IT'S ONLY A SYNTHETIC ALIEN HYBRID THAT SOMEHOW GOT BURIED UNDER THE LAVA IN A STATE OF SUSPENDED ANIMATION!
AMAZING...



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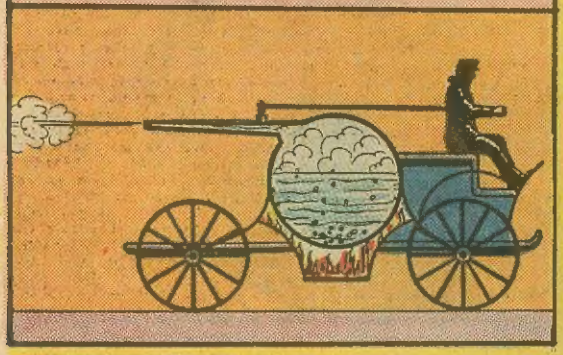
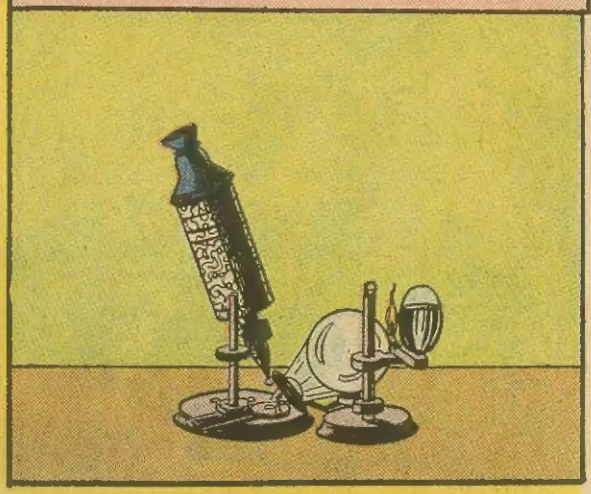
THE TIME JOURNAL

STRANGE AND CURIOUS FACTS COLLECTED BY RIP HUNTER ON HIS AMAZING ADVENTURES INTO THE PAST

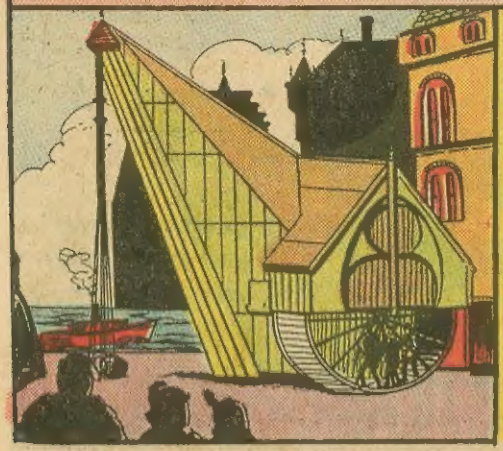
JET TRAVEL IS CERTAINLY NO NEW IDEA. THE GREAT ENGLISH PHYSICIST, SIR ISAAC NEWTON, BUILT THIS JET-PROPELLED CARRIAGE IN 1680. FIRE HEATED THE WATER IN THE CONTAINER. THE RESULTING STEAM SPURTED OUT OF THE NARROW NOZZLE AT HIGH SPEED, PROVIDING THE NECESSARY THRUST.

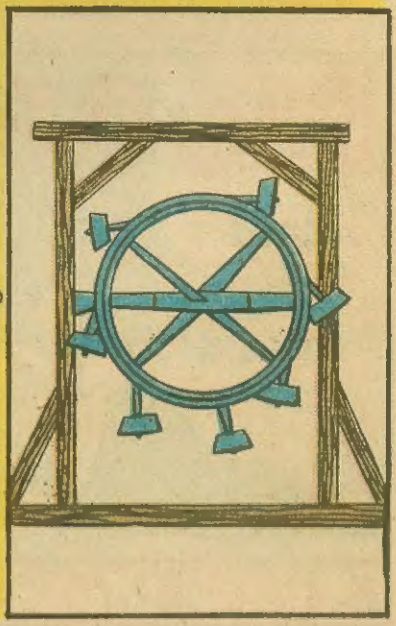


THIS CLUMSY GADGET IS ONE OF THE WORLD'S FIRST MICROSCOPES, CONSTRUCTED BY ROBERT HOOKE IN THE 17TH CENTURY. IN THE ABSENCE OF ELECTRIC BULBS, LIGHTING HAD TO BE PROVIDED BY REFLECTED FLAME



BEFORE THE ELECTRIC MOTOR WAS INVENTED, MEN CAME UP WITH ALL SORTS OF TRICKS TO EASE THEIR WORK LOAD. THIS CRANE, USED AT BRUGES, BELGIUM, IN THE 15TH CENTURY, OPERATED BY MEANS OF THE ATTACHED TREADMILL. THE MEN INSIDE, BY WALKING IN THE PROPER DIRECTION, CAUSED THE CRANE TO ELEVATE OR DESCEND.



SINCE THE BEGINNINGS OF CIVILIZATION, MAN HAS BEEN TRYING TO BUILD A **PERPETUAL MOTION MACHINE.** THIS ONE WAS DESIGNED BY A FRENCH ARCHITECT IN THE 13TH CENTURY. AS THE WHEEL ROTATED TO THE RIGHT, THE MALLETS WERE SUPPOSED TO FALL AWAY FROM THE RIM ON THE RIGHT SIDE, THUS SUPPLYING THE CONSTANT PULL THAT WOULD KEEP THE WHEEL ROTATING ENDLESSLY.

P.S.--
IT DIDN'T WORK!